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City of Fairfax NEWS RELEASE

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February 25, 2013

City of Fairfax Water Customers to Save Significant Money, Receive Higher-Quality Water Under New Proposal

Mayor and Council Seeking Input Before April 9 Vote

Fairfax, VA – City of Fairfax Mayor R. Scott Silverthorne, along with the City Council, announced today that the City is re-examining a possible agreement with the Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) as a way to save residents and businesses money and curtail the increasing costs of running a small water system. Before the City Council makes a decision whether to approve the framework for an agreement, Mayor and City Council are asking for community feedback.

Public outreach meetings are scheduled for Thursday March 21, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday April 6, 2013 at 9:00 a.m., both at the Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway. At the meetings, Mayor Silverthorne and Council members will discuss the new proposal, the City's options for providing water to residents and businesses and provide an opportunity for the community to offer its input.

In the very near future, the City will also be sending its water customers a letter and brochure from the Mayor and Council providing detailed information about the decision facing the Council. A section on the City website will be established to help answer questions about the proposed agreement.

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(Mayor and Council Seeking Input on New Water Proposal, continued)

“This is an opportunity for residents and businesses alike to save substantial amounts of money on their water bills while slowing the steep growth in water rates the City has been facing for many years,” said Mayor Silverthorne. “This is a historic decision that needs to be made with the community fully informed and involved.”

The City Council decided last spring to remain in the water treatment business and therefore not sell its assets such as the 50-year-old water treatment plant to Fairfax Water. Since that time, however, the City, Fairfax County and Fairfax Water – with the urging of a federal court mediator – have discussed an opportunity to stabilize current and future customer rates. The transition to Fairfax Water rates will be complete after three years.

City Council is scheduled to consider approving a framework of an agreement during its April 9, 2013 meeting, at City Hall. A public hearing is also scheduled for that date. Assuming approval of the framework, a final agreement would then be drafted and approved by the City, Fairfax Water, and Fairfax County at a later date.

For information, call **703-385-7850**.